File: Inside Out (Purple)

A GROUND ZERO PROJECT TO
SUPPORT ALL OF OUR YOUTH

Adolescence can be an incredibly tough time. It is the first of many lifetime transitions - a time of discovery - a time of growing independence - a time of learning to be accountable and responsible - a time to learn how to handle the pressure that accompanies adulthood - a time to deal with pressure from peers, society and other adults. How successful an adolescent progresses through this transition depends on his or her level of self-esteem, support and social acceptance. For an adolescent questioning his or her sexual identity, this transition period is compounded and frequently contributes to teen suicide, depression and isolation.

The Inside/Out gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth group was started 7 years ago to meet the needs of youth who are struggling and need support. These silent members in our community were not being reached by other traditional support groups. They needed a safe place where they could meet others, discuss their feelings and be reassured they were not alone. Although the needs of the group change, the reason for the group's existence remains the same. However, in order for the Inside/Out program to continue and expand its work, your support right now is critical.

Historically, the group was run by the El Paso County Health Department, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program. It met for an hour once a week and was open to youth ages 14-21. Speakers from the community discussed specific topics or group members chose their own. Certified therapists facilitated discussions on topics such as drug and alcohol abuse, safe sex; forming relationships; coming out; gaining support from adults; internalized homophobia; suicide; community involvement and staying physically safe from bodily harm.

Although the format of the group has not changed, now the Inside/Out program is overseen by the Community Council for Adolescent Development (C-CAD). In 1997 this board consisted of community leaders who met monthly with the mission to foster a community that nurtures the development of a positive sexual identity in all adolescents, especially homosexual, bisexual, and transgendered youth. Their goals are to fund raise for the youth activities, continue to provide supervised support and recreation services, outreach to youth, educate the public of the needs of GLBT youth and advocate for youth who are discriminated against.

The Inside/Out Program which serves 25-35 youth weekly is in need of your financial support to continue services. We want to do more outreach, more advertising, and more educating. We also want to continue the recreation program, since it offers a way for GLBT youth to build healthy relationships and develop a sense of community. GLBT youth meet at the Pride Center and have a place to call "their own". To continue the program your support is essential. Inside/Out participants want to have dances and picnics, participate in pride parades, go camping, go to Elitches on Gay Day-basically do things ever other adolescent does, but in a safe supportive environment and with peers. A dedicated staff of 8 volunteers their time weekly to provide these services to youth. These adolescents deserve your support. In exchange, they have been giving back to the community by participating in highway clean up, forming a speakers bureau to educate others, cleaning up the Pride Center and providing free safe sex packets to the community.

With your support the Inside/Out Program will continue and expand on its already excellent services. Your support will send a message to the GLBT youth of our community that you care, you understand, and they are NOT alone.

Please fill out the attached pledge card today and send your generous tax-deductible donation to C-CAD, Inside/Out Youth Group TODAY. Thank you in advance for your support!

----------detach here----------

NAME_____ PHONE_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

____ Tax deductible contribution enclosed $_____ .

____ I can not help out financially but would like to become a C-CAD board member.

____ I would like to be an on-going supporter: _____ monthly ____quarterly _____ yearly.

Please make checks payable to C-CAD, Inside/Out Youth and mail to: Ground Zero, P.O. Box 1982 Colorado Springs CO 80901 (use enclosed postage paid envelope). 100% of donation goes to youth program. This is a tax deductible donation under 501 c 3 provisions of the IRS.

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e-mail GrndZeroCo@aol.com

GROUND ZERO

WE ARE ALL FAMILY

A Ground Zero Fundraising Project to Help Our Youth

What The Youth Have To Say About INSIDE/OUT

Inside Out Youth Group is the best thing to ever happen to Colorado Springs. I am so thankful that this group exists. It has helped me so much.
Remy "18"

Inside Out Youth Group has benefitted me in numerous ways. If I was to explain them all, I would write a novel. One thing I can say.. If you ever were in need of emotional support, the IOYG will always be there for you.
Roberto

The Inside Out Group has showed me where I stand in the community and what I can do to help society see that "homosexuality" is not a death sentence. Dustin

The Inside Out Youth Group is and was important to me for a number of reasons. When I first started coming to group it was a very good way for me to realize I was not the only "homosexual" in the world and that being gay was not a horrible thing--nothing to be ashamed about. Now group is important to me because I know that if I am ever feeling down or alone, I can come to group and it is sort of a safe haven. The people here are a kind of surrogate family who are always here for you. Without group I know that to this day I would be a scared, alone and ashamed young man.
ZACH "17"

Inside Out has given me a place where I can go to meet people/kids my own age with whom I have some things in common. The youth group gives all young gay teens a place to go and talk to other gay teens--a place to go and talk to other gay teens about situations in our lives which our peers at school would not understand. It has made a big difference in a lot of young gay teens lives. People here, at group, understand.
Ally "19"

Give today!!
Support our youth!